

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

- 1.(Currently amended) A method for the treatment of inflammation in a mammal ~~of an inflammatory or erosive disease~~, said method comprising administering to the mammal a compound capable of inhibiting a proprotein convertase.
- 2.(Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the inflammation ~~inflammatory or erosive~~ is associated with a disease is characterized by furin or furin-like protease activity.
- 3.(Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from PDX or a construct, variant, analog, PDX-related peptide, PDX-related-peptidomimetic, their salts, complexes or derivatives.
- 4.(Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the compound is selected from PDX or a construct, variant, analog, PDX-related peptide, PDX-related-peptidomimetic, their salts, complexes or derivatives.
- 5.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered in the form of a prodrug.
- 6.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered in combination with an intracellular carrier.
- 7.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the compound is administered by a gene therapy delivery system.

- 8.(Original) The method of claim 7 wherein a cell transfectant is used as the gene therapy delivery system.
- 9.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation of TACE in cells of the mammal are blocked.
- 10.(Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation is furin-mediated endoproteolytic activation.
- 11.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation of TGF $\beta$  in cells of the mammal are blocked.
- 12.(Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation is furin-mediated endoproteolytic activation.
- 13.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation of mature PDGF in cells of the mammal are blocked.
- 14.(Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation is furin-mediated endoproteolytic activation.
- 15.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein proprotein convertase-mediated growth in cells of the mammal are blocked.
- 16.(Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the proprotein convertase-mediated growth is furin-mediated growth.
- 17.(Original) The method of claim 1 wherein proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation of aggrecanase-1 in cells of the mammal are blocked.

18.(Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the proprotein convertase-mediated endoproteolytic activation is furin-mediated endoproteolytic activation.

19.(Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~inflammatory disease is~~ inflammation is associated with rheumatoid arthritis.

20. (Currently amended) A composition for the treatment of inflammation in a mammal ~~of an inflammatory or erosive disease~~, said composition comprising a compound selected from PDX or a construct, variant, analog, PDX-related peptide, PDX-related-peptidomimetic, their salts, complexes or derivatives.